

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (original) A method for resolving an address request in a computer system comprising the steps of:

receiving a name at a first server with a request for an address corresponding to that name;

comparing the name with a database of names to detect any matching name in the database; and

if no matching name is detected, sending a referral response in answer to the request.

2. (original) A method according to claim 1 in which the first server is a domain name server and the referral is to a second domain name server.

3. (original) Apparatus for resolving an address request in a computer system comprising:

means for receiving a name at a first server with a request for an address corresponding to that name;

means for comparing the name with a database of names to detect any matching name in the database; and

means for sending a referral in answer to the request if no matching name is detected.

4. (original) Apparatus according to claim 3 in which the first server is a domain name server and the referral is to a second domain name server.

5. (original) A method for resolving an unknown address request in a computer system comprising the steps of:

receiving a referred request from a user;

performing a sequence of tests on the request; and

sending a synthesized address response to the user.

6. (original) A method according to claim 5 in which the sequences of tests including the step of determining the type of the request.

7. (currently amended) A method according to claim 5 [[or 6]] in which the sequence of tests including determining whether the start of a request matches a known string of characters.

8. (currently amended) A method according to claim 5 [[claims 5, 6 or 7]] in which the request is a name to address resolution request.

9. (currently amended) A method according to claim 5[[, 6 7 or 8]] in which the synthesized response comprises an Internet Protocol address.

10. (original) Apparatus for resolving an unknown address request in a computer system comprising means for receiving a referral request from a user;

means for performing a sequence of tests in the request; and

means for sending a synthesized address response to the user.

11. (cancelled)

12. (cancelled).